

# Celebrating Collaboration

*Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body*

**You can get involved in the HSCB by attending a monthly meeting or by joining a workgroup!**

**Where can YOU make a difference?**

- Transportation
- Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship
- Substance Abuse · Homelessness
- Healthy Youth · Hunger
- Mental Health Awareness
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Older Adults · Young Children
- Community Data

## *In This Issue*

### **Collaboration Works!**

### **Stories of Hope**

### **Upcoming Events**

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## **What's New in Livingston County?**

The Abilities Alliance workgroup and the Livingston Sunrise Rotary Club are teaming up to create a new rotaract club for individuals with all abilities. In communities worldwide, Rotary and Rotaract members work side by side to take action through service. From big cities to rural villages, Rotaract is changing communities like ours.

Rotaract clubs bring together people ages 18 and older to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service.

What's involved? Rotaract members decide how to organize and run their clubs, manage their own funds, and plan and carry out activities and service projects. Rotary club sponsors offer guidance and support and work with your club as partners in service. This is a new partnership so we look forward to providing more updates as we move forward. If you want additional information, please contact Connie Conklin at [cconklin@cmhliv.org](mailto:cconklin@cmhliv.org).



ABILITIES ALLIANCE

Livingston Sunrise  
**Rotary**  
Club





# Collaboration Works!

The Annual **Backpacks for Kids/Connect for Kids** was held on Thursday, August 6 at the Livingston Educational Service Agency. To date, over 930 backpacks have been distributed. Over 800 backpacks were distributed on the day of the event at a drive through style event. These backpacks were filled with donated school supplies and Community Resource Folders. 70+ volunteers helped Stuff the Bus at Walmart, filled Community Resource folders, filled backpacks, distributed backpacks and helped with the planning and set up of this event. Volunteers included LESA staff members, United Way partners and SUD workgroup members who helped stuff the resource folders.

Instead of an in-person Connect for Kids portion of the event, Community Resource folders were placed in all the backpacks. The Community Resource folders contained over 50 resources from our various community partners. The Backpacks for Kids/Connect for Kids event is a local event supported by local donations and volunteers. Each year, because of this event, many children are able to start their school year with a new backpack and school supplies.

## Backpacks for Kids/Connect for Kids Infographic



## Stories of Hope

Here in Livingston County we are very fortunate to live in an area with so many programs, resources and collaborations to help those in need with everything from shelter and rent to utilities and food.

The Salvation Army of Livingston County provides one of those very important programs, Summer Lunch Bunch. The program provides free meals to children and their families in the months when school resources are not available. This summer, the program was even more important. After the emergency COVID Lunch Program, The Salvation Army knew that Summer Lunch Bunch was needed more than ever and was determined to find a way to make it happen.

Normally the program is centered around a "community meal" with families interacting, however this year that just wasn't possible. With the help of hundreds of volunteers and several hours of "recreation planning", the "Drive Thru" Summer Lunch Bunch was created. As the families pulled up to the canteen they were greeted with smiling, masked faces filling their cars with a prepared meal to eat that day, a pantry pack with enough lunches to get them through the week and a take home craft activity. When the families arrived at home, they accessed the virtual instructions for their take home craft for family fun.

Although much different from the year's past, The Salvation Army's Summer Lunch Bunch program was still able to provide meals and fun activities to get families through the summer and provide HOPE for the coming months. During the months of June and July, **The Salvation Army provided 3111 prepared meals and over 26,000 pounds of food to families in Livingston County through the Summer Lunch Bunch program.** This was in addition to the regular pantry assistance and other assistance programs.



The Salvation Army of Livingston County is still providing assistance via telephone Monday-Friday, 9am-4:30pm. More information on the programs and services that The Salvation Army of Livingston County provides can be found on the website [www.SalvationArmyLivingston.org](http://www.SalvationArmyLivingston.org) or 517-546-4750.



# LCHD UPDATE

The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) continues to work diligently to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. LCHD staff work 7 days a week to follow up with cases, conduct contact tracing, support local businesses and organizations, communicate important information, and answer any questions community members or partners might have regarding COVID-19, in addition to carrying out the “usual” public health activities (remember to get your flu shot!) The recent addition of LCHD’s very own epidemiologist, Emma Harman, has been indispensable in investigating cases and using data to inform next steps. Currently, we are seeing an increase in cases in children and teenagers over the age of 11 years, specifically in high school-aged individuals. This increase in cases is predominately associated with high school sports and graduation parties. Though teenagers tend to have milder cases, they have the ability to transmit the virus to older family members. Older family members have an increased risk for severe illness and hospitalization from infection with COVID-19. It is important for community transmission to remain low for schools and businesses to remain open.

*We are honored to serve our community.*



 LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
Health Department

By practicing risk reduction measures like social distancing, increased hand washing and cleaning, and correct mask use, Livingston County can continue to flatten the curve of COVID-19. The LCHD staff are honored to serve such a wonderful community- as with anything, we’re all in this together!

For daily updates on COVID-19 in Livingston County, including case count and trends, please visit [LCHD.org](https://www.lchd.org).

## FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED!

Foster and adoptive parents are needed to provide a stable, safe and caring homes while efforts are being made to reunite the child with the biological family. By being a foster or adoptive parent, you can be a positive force in the life of a child who desperately needs your help. Foster and adoptive parents receive training, ongoing support and financial assistance to help them be effective. Foster parents also have access to day care reimbursement, medical coverage for their foster children, mental health services if necessary, and extra help if your foster child has extensive medical needs. Post-adoption services are available, too. For answers to more frequently asked questions, please contact the Licensing department in our Howell office. Sarah Kremhelmer is the supervisor and would be happy to answer your questions. Sarah can be reached via email at [Sarah.Kremhelmer@enniscenter.org](mailto:Sarah.Kremhelmer@enniscenter.org)

Ennis Center for Children in Howell also has over ten years of experience providing behavioral health care to those from Genesee, Livingston, Ingham, Wayne, Oakland and Monroe counties. We have a wide array of therapists that have years of experience working with children, youth and adults with various needs and issues. Our therapists have specialties working with substance abuse, attachment issues, parenting, anxiety, depression and a host of other issues. We have an office in Howell with extremely experienced therapists who can help you work through whatever may be bothering you. We have a psychiatric Nurse Practitioner who is able to review cases for medication if the Therapist believes it would be helpful. Our intake process is seamless as once you call and give us your insurance information; you are then assigned a Therapist. We accept most insurances and are able to verify your insurance coverage for the sessions. Our intake number is 313-801-8225. We are here to help you.



## Upcoming EVENTS

### Arc Livingston Parent Support Group @ 10a & 7p

Third Monday of month: Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16

<http://www.arclivingston.org/parentsupportgroup>

### Arc Livingston Sibshops Zoom Meetings

11 am-12 pm on Oct 10, Nov 7, Dec 5

<http://www.arclivingston.org/sibshops>



## Michigan Works! Southeast

1240 Packard DR, Howell, MI 48843

517-546-7450, TTY: 711

We are excited to share that we are now scheduling both virtual and in-person appointments! If you do not have access to reliable technology, we are ready to schedule an in-person appointment with you.

### Virtual Workshops

Step 1: Visit [www.mwse.org](http://www.mwse.org) to view our workshop calendar and to register.

Step 2: After you register, you will receive an email with a link to join the virtual meeting on the scheduled date and time.

**Livingston County Catholic Charities** has begun planning their annual **Christmas Blessing** project that serves low income and home bound seniors. Each year they seek schools, businesses, individuals, churches and other organizations to host drives (paper product, cleaning or hygiene items) or make monetary donations to help support this community wide effort. Last year 162 seniors were served! This year, Gleaner's will be providing the food boxes in support of this activity. If you would like to help, contact Suzi Snyder at 517-545-5944.

Livingston County Catholic Charities is excited to share an endeavor embarked upon with Altarum, a non-profit research and consulting organization that creates and implements solutions to advance health among vulnerable and publicly insured populations, thanks to funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. After working with Altarum on another grant funded project that served caregivers, Altarum, based on LCCC's 30+ years of experience with the Volunteer Caregiver program and working with seniors, approached LCCC with this exciting concept.

**The Caregiver Corps Toolkit** was built to share at no cost and can benefit not only Michigan but be used nationally. Please feel free to check out the toolkit and use to fit your programming. It resides on our website under the Resources:

<http://www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org/volunteer-caregiver-toolkit/>

Are you caring for a loved one with dementia, Alzheimers, Parkinsons or other memory related disease? There will be an array of **caregiver activities this fall** including bi-monthly caregiver support groups, thanks to generous grant funding from the Community Foundation of SE Michigan, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund. Call Suzi at 517-546-9910 to learn more.

**Special Ministries**, a program of Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC), serving adults with disabilities is offering both in-person and virtual recreational, educational activities and more along with a caregiver support group. These programs are open to ALL residents of Livingston County. Visit our website for more info: <http://www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org/special-ministries-of-livingston-county/>



Fall  
Programming

# CIL FALL PROGRAMS

## New - Disability Community Action Lab (DCAL)

Do you want action and change in your community? Do you want to stand up for what you believe in? Join fellow aspiring advocates and activists and learn new tools and skills to bring about change. We provide guidance and support to make a difference while you collaborate with folks who care about the things you do.

## Virtual Art Studio

Flex your interest in art while using stuff you have at home! Join us for structured art projects using supplies you already have lying around your home. We get together online to work together and create unique and enjoyable art! Led by EMU Art Instructor Claire Moore. Wednesdays, 2-3 pm

## Virtual Movie Club

Watch a movie, then chat with folks! Beat the stay home blues and join the CIL's virtual movie club! How does it work? Each week, watch a planned movie on your own time, and then we get together virtually to talk about it and have some fun! It's that easy! Movie club sessions include trivia, thought-provoking questions, and laughter. Thursdays, times TBD.

## Safe Connections Supporting Positive and Healthy Relationships

Are you an ally against harmful or unhealthy relationships or a survivor of sexual assault or domestic violence? Do you also have a disability? Join us for safe talk, kinship and support. Topics may cover tips for making relationship choices, guidance for maintaining positive relationships, improving communication about sex, and more. Mondays, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm, Starting September 14

## #AloneTogether

### A Get-Together for When You Feel Apart

Staying at home by yourself is tough. Join us for a new online meet-up group to help you make each day feel new and talk with others in the same boat. Topics may cover finding new stuff to do, keeping your body and mind healthy, connecting with family and friends, safe shopping, and helpful resources. Mondays from 6 pm – 7 pm

**If you have any additional questions an/or needs feel free to reach out to Center for Independent Living, Livingston Program Coordinator Mark Hymes at [mhymes@livingstoncil.org](mailto:mhymes@livingstoncil.org) or 517-225-2870.**

Are you worried your child or teen may be going down the wrong path? Have you exhausted all other options and are unsure where to turn? Let us help you make a positive change for your family. Message us for details about our Challenge Camps or visit:

[www.midcoursecorrection.org](http://www.midcoursecorrection.org)

We are now open and are registering for Fall, 2020!

We are following all CDC recommendations for COVID-19 social distancing, protocols and precautions.

Here is a short video: <https://youtu.be/wKBnRgWiUzM>

## What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members who work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Amy Johnston at [ajohnston@cmhliv.org](mailto:ajohnston@cmhliv.org).



*Ensuring a system  
of support for  
members of our  
community*

## Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

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Have you been impacted by  
Covid-19 and never needed to  
access resources before?

This guide will help you navigate  
these uncertain times.

## Step-by-Step Guide



1st

**By accessing available resources, you can ensure your limited financial resources will last longer. Consider accessing local resources for:**

1. **Food**— by accessing free food, you reduce the grocery costs to your household
2. **Utilities**— by accessing free/reduced utilities, your household costs will be reduced
3. **Rent Assistance**—local agencies can help you catch up and maintain your home

Link to Food/Utilities/Rental Assistance Agencies: <https://www.livgov.com/hscb>

2nd

**Identify household costs which can be eliminated or reduced during this time. Expensive household items to consider are:**

- ◆ Gas—by limiting your driving, you will reduce the expense of gasoline
- ◆ Multiple cars—if you have multiple vehicles can you put one in storage to reduce insurance costs?
- ◆ Food costs—reduce expenses by cutting down or eliminating carry out
- ◆ Memberships or apps—are there apps or memberships you are paying which could be eliminated? Like gym memberships?
- ◆ Phone or cable bills—can you change to a cheaper plan to reduce expenses?
- ◆ Car or clothing expenses—can you purchase used items instead?

3rd

## Research Other Local Resources

For the most up-to-date information:

Call or text 211 or online: <https://www.livgov.com/hscb>—Agency Updates in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis Document

*Ensuring a system of  
support for members of  
our community.  
[livgov.com/hscb](https://www.livgov.com/hscb)*

